

### APPLYING FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISA:

The National Visa Center of the State Department will advise the immigrant visa applicant who is the beneficiary of the petition, when it is received from the approving Immigration Service office. The applicant will be sent a packet of instructions and forms in order to pursue the application for the immigrant visa.

The approved Petition is forwarded to the foreign service Post abroad having jurisdiction of the applicant's place of residence. The Consulate General in Auckland has jurisdiction over residents of all of New Zealand, Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa. When an applicant's file is received at Consulate General, in Auckland, this office advises the applicant of the receipt of the file. All applicants, regardless of age, must appear in person at the Consulate General for the formal visa interview. Appointments are scheduled in the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. The appointment letter is sent out together with medical instructions, after the applicants notify the office they are ready. The applicant should notify the office by signing and returning the DS-2001, which is included in the initial packet of instructions.

Appointments are scheduled for dates 4-6 weeks after the receipt of Form DS-2001. Provided there are no complications, and the visa application is approved, it will be mailed out the next day. The visa will usually be valid for six months from the date of issue.

However, if on the day of the interview it is determined that the applicant needs to submit additional documents, those additional documents should be mailed to the Consulate General. A large foolscap pre-paid self-addressed Courier Post envelope should be provided, for return of the visaed passport and packet of documents.

### Documents for application:

The Petitioner/sponsor for a family based immigrant must provide an Affidavit of Support, Form I-864. All immigrants must show they will not become public charges in the U.S. All applicants must also submit certain personal documents such as valid passports, birth certificates, police certificates and other civil documents. The consular officer will inform visa applicants of the documents needed as their applications are processed. Also see:

[http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info\\_1339.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/info/info_1339.html)

### Medical Examinations:

Before the issuance of an immigrant visa, every applicant, regardless of age, must undergo a medical examination. The examination will be conducted by a doctor designated by the consular officer. Examination costs must be borne by the applicant, in addition to the visa fees.

Fees: there are separate fees for filing an Immediate Relative Petition, and for processing the application and issuing the immigrant visa. For applicants obtaining a visa under the Diversity Visa Program ("lottery visa"), there is an additional surcharge. See Fees button to the left of this page.

Fees should not be sent to the consular office. They must be paid in person at the interview.

### Miscellaneous:

Since no advance assurances can be given that a visa will be issued, applicants are advised not to make any final travel arrangements, not to dispose of their property, and not to give up their jobs until visas have been issued to them.

With few exceptions, a person born in the U.S. has a claim to U.S. citizenship. Persons born abroad, may have a claim under U.S. law, to U.S. citizenship, IF either parent was a U.S. citizen at the time of the applicant's birth, and has resided in the U.S. prior to the child's birth.

Any applicant having a definite claim to U.S. citizenship should not apply for a visa until her or his citizenship had been determined by the consular office.